16: Hanks & Hanks E,P-4,5 (1938-1941) 1950
NF6 Blackfoot NF6
Northern Blackfoot
Blackfoot Reserve

316 mine offers for sale at cost such necessary equipment as dynamite, picks, fuses, etc. These are purchased by the miner or room boss, the cost being deducted from the sum he receives for coal. Developmental work such as the opening of new rooms, laying of new tracks, timbering, and purchase of cars is paid for from the operating fund.

316 To work at the mine an Indian usually goes in late September
466 or early October when the demand for coal is greatest. Assuming that he has obtained a job by applying to the room foreman, the new miner must make an initial outlay of about $35 for equipment. A miner's cap, carbide, flints, a pick, etc., come to $25, and this is deducted in small amounts from the pay of the room where he is working, being passed on to the new miner as deductions from his
316 weekly wage. The average miner in good weeks when coal is in
465 demand will make between $6 and $10 a week. Most men work only a few weeks in order to obtain cash, and quit when they have what
316 they need. Others have built more of their existence around the
464 weekly pay and work steadily all winter. Certain applicants have been discouraged by the doctor from doing this work even part-time
[164] in view of the all-too-frequent tendency towards tuberculosis. It is not, therefore, a field open to everyone.

316 The total income from the mines is limited among other things by the available market. Most towns in southern Alberta have mines in the vicinity, and the town fathers have made ordinances forbidding the peddling within town limits of coal originating elsewhere than in their specified areas. The Blackfoot mine produces coal for the reserve and most of the area adjoining the eastern end of the reserve. This includes white farms in the vicinity, the reserve schools, the agency, the Blackfoot households and any trucker who may come asking for a few tons. However, this is the only market for the coal at present, and there is little immediate prospect of its increasing.

489 Formerly Indians could make $5 or more per week by hauling
[434] and peddling their coal in adjacent towns. This secondary source of income has been prevented by the town ordinances mentioned and by the difficulty of Indians competing with trucks. The only hauling
[434] job left involves taking coal to the agency and schools. Though this pays $2 per load, it takes relatively few trips to provide for these needs.

231 (2) *Horse raising.* A visitor will be struck by the large number
[422] of unbroken horses that roam the reserve. These animals all bear the Blackfoot brand, a lazy "S," and a number indicating the particular owner.

BLACKFEET RESERVATION

TRIBAL ECONOMY

Average annual tribal income is $500,000. Ninety percent of this income is derived from minerals and 10 percent from miscellaneous sources. There are several industrial enterprises on the reservation, including a pencil manufacturer and a lumber cut-stock plant, providing employment for tribal members and income to the tribe.

CLIMATE

Rainfall averages about 14 inches per year. The temperature ranges from a high of 85° to a low of −20°.

TRANSPORTATION

U.S. Highway 89 runs southeast-northwest, and U.S. Highway 2 runs east-west through the reservation. Train, bus, and truck services are available on the reservation at Browning, while commercial air service is available at Great Falls, 125 miles away.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A large community building is available at Browning for various tribal activities. A modern library with 3,000 volumes was recently completed. The water system at Browning is municipally owned. Electricity is furnished by Glacier Cooperative and natural gas by Montana Power Company. The U.S. Public Health Service hospital at Browning provides medical care for tribal members.

RECREATION

Browning, gateway to Glacier National Park, is the principal reservation shopping center. This is also the site of the Museum of the Plains Indians, a nationally known repository of Indian artifacts. North American Indian Days are celebrated annually with dances, ceremonies, and a rodeo. In addition to Glacier National Park, reservation recreation areas include Lower St. Mary's Lake, Duck Lake, and other such areas.

Vital Statistics

Population:	
Indians residing on or adjacent to reservation:	6,218
Labor Force:	
Total:	1,353
Unemployed:	485
Unemployment rate:	37%